



## Greater Yellowstone Coalition

*People protecting the lands, waters, and wildlife of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, now and for future generations.*

February 25, 2013

Dear Chairman Ankney and members of the House Appropriations Committee,

This morning your committee will consider H.B. 322, which would provide funding to the Livestock Loss Mitigation Board, add grizzly bears to the livestock loss reduction programs, provide for nonlethal deterrents to conflicts, and fund livestock compensation. We ask that you support H.B. 322 for the below reasons:

1. Grizzly bears are a permanent part of the Montana landscape. Adequately funding programs to reduce conflicts proactively with non-lethal deterrents and providing compensation to producers should depredations occur, helps maintain and build support for grizzly bears in Montana.
2. Sharing this landscape with native large carnivores is part of what makes living in Montana special and we pride ourselves on being able to live with our wildlife. These programs benefit all Montanans, not just livestock producers, because they help maintain healthy populations of carnivores on the landscape.
3. This bill ensures funding for proactive preventive measures for grizzly bear management that could include fencing, fladry, night penning, increased, human presence in the form of livestock herders and riders, guard animals, alternative pasture allotments, delayed turnouts, etc... These are tools that, if properly funded, can help reduce conflicts with grizzly bears.
4. While conflicts with livestock producers are minimal, these conflicts can become chronic and localized. This legislation gives prioritization to areas with chronic conflicts that benefit the most from preventative measures to avoid lethal removal.

We ask for your support of the \$400,000 appropriations to the Livestock Loss Mitigation Board to fund the above management actions for wolves and grizzly bears in Montana.

Sincerely,

Chris Colligan  
Wildlife Program Manager  
Greater Yellowstone Coalition